

JANUSZ BOGUMIŁ GILAS – PROFESSOR AND TEACHER

Janusz Bogumil Gilas was born on 10 June 1937 in Warsaw. His childhood came during World War II, during which he lost his father. At the age of 5 he began primary school. After the war, Janusz Gilas's family moved to Toruń, where he graduated from high school with distinction. This allowed him to pursue higher education without entrance examinations. Janusz Gilas chose the Warsaw School of Foreign Service (the successor to the pre-war School, and from 1939 the Academy of Political Science), Faculty of Diplomatic and Consular Studies. In fact, some eminent pre-war professors taught there. Janusz Gilas graduated from the School in 1959 with a Master in International Law.

He started his professional career in 1961, initially as an assistant at the Polish Institute of International Affairs in Warsaw. From 1963, he was permanently affiliated with the Faculty of Law and Administration of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, which had been rebuilt after the Stalinist repression (the Faculty did not exist in the years 1951-1958). He was briefly an assistant, then from 1963 an assistant professor, from 1968 an associate professor, and from 1976 a professor.

Professor Janusz Gilas held a number of positions at the Faculty. From 1971 to 1974 he was Head of the Department of International Economic Relations, from 1974 to his retirement in 1991 he was Head of the Department (now Chair) of International Law. From 1969 to 1975 he was Vice-Dean for Student Affairs, and from 1974 to 1981 he served as Director of the Institute of Legal and Constitutional Sciences.

Professor Gilas' academic career progressed rapidly. On 10 December 1963 he defended his doctoral thesis at the University of Toruń on the subject of *The Issue of Disarmament* (supervisor: Professor Stanisław E. Nahlik, reviewers: Professor Dr. Stanisław Arnold and Docent Dr. Aleksander Bramson). As early as 13 May 1968, a habilitation colloquium was held at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the A. Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The colloquium was based on his dissertation entitled *Transit in International Law* (reviewers in the habilitation procedure: Professor Dr. Alfons Klafkowski, Professor Dr. Remigiusz Zaorski, Professor Dr. Wojciech

Morawiecki). Doc. dr hab. Janusz Gilas was promoted to extraordinary professor in 1976, and to full professor in 1985 (these titles were conferred, after a procedure for the verification of scientific achievements by the State Council now the title of professor is conferred by the President of Poland).

The development of Professor Janusz Gilas's career was also connected with his involvement outside the University of Toruń. In the years 1974-1978, Professor Janusz Gilas was Head of the Toruń Branch of the Polish Institute of International Affairs. From 1974 to 1989 he was the chairman of the editorial committee of the legal periodical "Studia Iuridica", a series published in Polish by the Scientific Society of Toruń. From 1978 Janusz Gilas was also a member of the scientific council of the Silesian Institute in Opole and at the same time from 1980 to 1990 deputy editor-in-chief of the "Review of International Relations".

From 1983 to 1989, J. Gilas was a member of the Institute of Socialist Countries of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw and from 1984 to 1989 a member of the Peace Research Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. Professor J. Gilas devoted a great deal of time to the work of the Maritime Law Commission at the Gdansk Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences, which he co-founded (1981) and headed. In this connection, he has also been the chairman of the editorial committee of "Maritime Law", the scientific body of the Commission, since it was established.

During his period of academic activity, Professor Janusz Gilas was a member of two scientific societies: The Polish Section of the International Law Association (since 1966) and the Scientific Society of Toruń (since 1968).

In the course of his professional life, Professor J. Gilas was a doctoral thesis supervisor as many as 18 times. He reviewed 32 doctoral dissertations, and 22 habilitation dissertations (in both cases not only in international law, but also in international relations). On ten occasions, he has given opinions on the applications of various university councils for the conferral of academic titles or the granting of the position of university professor. It should also be mentioned that Professor Janusz Gilas was a supervisor of an *honoris causa* doctorate (for Professor A. Alfons from the University of Poznań, UMK, Toruń) and a reviewer in the proceedings for the conferment of such a title (by the President of Italy, Alessandro Pertini, at the University of Wrocław). Last but not least, Professor Janusz Gilas was supervisor for approximately 300 Masters in Law.

Professor Janusz Gilas is married to Teresa, a historian and professor at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń.